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File -

BUENOS AIRES

TELEGRAM

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FROM
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

ACTION:

XGDS-2

PINS, AR

ARMY INTELLIGENCE STUDIES US HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY

SECSTATE WASHDC

USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

BUENOS AIRES 7876

REF: BUENOS AIRES 7693

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(☒) Release (☐) Excise (☐) Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: (☐) In Part (☒) In Full

(☐) Classify as (☐) Extend as (☐) Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

AMB
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1. As alluded to in paragraph 2 of reftel, Emboffs have for some time maintained very private confidential contacts (retired) with a senior Army intelligence official/and one of his civilian aides. Discussions have generally centered on the US human rights policy and implications for Argentina.
2. In June, these Argentine officials prepared a two page ^{assertedly} report on the US human rights policy ~~concerning contacts~~ ~~the protocols~~ at the request of President Videla and Army Commander General Viola. The report mainly outlined the legislative and historical background of the human rights

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DRAFTING DATE
10/4/78

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50152-101

OPTIONAL FORM 152(H)
(Formerly FS-413(H))
January 1975
Dept. of State

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(51/52)

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rejected
issue and ~~addressed~~ the notion -- often discussed in Argentina -- that the US human rights policy was engineered principally to weaken Marxist regimes by its superior ideological strength.

3. Based on USICA reprints of US human rights policy statements dating from early 1977, the officials are continuing to study and prepare reports on the US human rights policy and its implementation worldwide. The project, according to the officials, is meant to help Argentine security forces understand the US policy, soften their negative "gut" reaction to human rights as a code word for intervention and leftist propaganda, and contribute to the re-education of security forces to abandon operation^{al} "excesses" and return to lawful security procedures. General Viola, we are told, is aware of and supports this project.

4. On September 22, Emboff met with the senior official and four of his staff, including two lawyers, a historian and a psychologist, at their request, to discuss the US policy for their report in progress. The discussions were frank and largely friendly, centering mainly on US support for and relations with Amnesty International, the legislative and historical background of the US human rights

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policy, the matter of human rights as intervention in internal affairs, and US human rights policy implementation in Argentina and beyond.

5. Several days later, the official provided Emboffs with a copy of the report, which was an outline and summary of the US human rights policy as taken from quotes extracted faithfully from the USICA publications. The report was direct, factual and devoid of any comment or emotional slant. Reportedly the officials intend to prepare two more reports, one on the tools and methods foreseen by the US to implement its human rights policy abroad and the last on the actual steps taken by the US to implement its policy. Our contacts tell us the reports will be provided to heads of the country's intelligence services.

6. The Embassy has encouraged a thorough discussion of our human rights policy at all levels of Argentine society. What is most significant to us at this point is the apparent time and effort being put into this project by the Army intelligence service to clarify and disseminate the US human rights policy and objectives to those persons most directly involved in the anti-subversion effort. We cannot discard completely, of course, that presentation/of these Argentine views and projects could be a ploy on

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someone's part to produce encouragement within the
Embassy about human rights progress. We believe
however at this point it is sound to accept these
at face value:
stirrings/ ~~as presented~~ As a sign of concern among
persons themselves engaged in the anti-subversive
war.

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